

**Enrollment Preferences Task Force Minutes: Meeting #9**  
**Monday, December 8, 2014**  
**6:30 pm- Buena Vista Conference Center**

**Task Force members present:**

- Representative Kim Williams, Delaware House of Representatives, Co-Chair
- Senator Nicole Poore, Delaware State Senate, Co-Chair
- Representative Earl Jaques, Delaware House of Representatives
- Senator David Sokola, Delaware State Senate
- Frederika Jenner, Delaware State Education Association
- Randall Hughes, Delaware State Board of Education
- Terri Hancharick, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
- Susan Francis, Delaware School Board Association
- Dr. Mervin Daugherty, New Castle County Superintendent
- Dr. Matthew Donovan, Delaware Association of School Administrators
- Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Kent County Superintendent
- Yvonne Johnson, Delaware Parent Teacher Association
- Chuck Taylor, Charter School Network
- Gary Stockbridge, Delaware Business Roundtable
- Dr. Victoria Gehrt, Superintendent from New Castle County Vo-Tech
- Dr. Deborah Zych, Superintendent from Polytech
- Mark Pruitt, Magnet School Representative
- Julie Rumschlag, Magnet School Representative
- Henry Clampitt, Charter School Representative
- Elizabeth Lockman, Parent Representative
- Dr. Terri Hodges, Parent Representative
- Catherine Hegedus, Parent Representative

**Staff present:**

- Fran Fletcher, University of Delaware
- Mark Brainard Jr., Delaware House of Representatives

**Members Absent:**

- Secretary Mark Murphy, Delaware Department of Education
- Lindsay O'Mara, Governor's Office
- Dr. David Ring Superintendent from Sussex County
- Dr. Allen Lathbury, Superintendent from Sussex Tech
- Donald Mell, Charter School Representative

**Public attendees:**

- John Lynch, New Castle County Vo-Tech
  - Kathy Demarest, New Castle County Vo-Tech
  - Greg Meese, Newark Charter School
  - Kendall Massett, Delaware Charter School Network
  - Mike Matthews, Red Clay
  - Bill Doolittle, Community Member
  - Jennifer Nagourney, Delaware Department of Education
  - Michael Oboryshko, Red Clay
  - Steve Dressel, Newark Charter School
  - Kevin Ohlandt, Capital
  - Donna Johnson, State Board of Education
  - Eve Buckley, Christina
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Meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

## **1. Introduction**

Representative Williams welcomed State Representative Earl Jaques, who was appointed by the Speaker of the House, Pete Schwartzkopf, to replace former State Representative Darryl Scott. Representative Williams made a motion to accept the minutes as edited, which was unanimously adopted by the task force. Representative Williams turned the meeting over to Fran Fletcher who would facilitate the rest of the meeting.

## **2. Discussion**

Fran Fletcher continued the discussion of assessment as it pertains to the items that had been placed on the "parking lot" at the previous meeting. Ms. Fletcher explained the process for the evening's discussion. Each member had an opportunity to add to the thoughts expressed at the previous meeting.

Frederika Jenner reiterated that assessment could be an important tool for a school to use, but not before a student is admitted.

Henry Clampitt stated that assessments are an important tool to gather necessary information on an applicant, using interest as an example.

Elizabeth Lockman said that while she does not support assessments for middle schools, should strong standards be in place, assessments at the high school level may be appropriate.

Terri Hodges stated that she does not support assessments because the current system is too subjective.

Yvonne Johnson reiterated that assessments are appropriate for high schools if it fits the mission of the school.

Julie Rumschlag said that assessments are appropriate, at the middle school and high school levels, if aligned with the mission of the school.

Chuck Taylor stated that if the mission of the school matches the assessment, then it is appropriate. These assessments provide vital information to ensure that a student is not attending a school where they may fail.

Terri Hancharick said that she does not support assessment prior to admission.

Following that round of discussion, voting began on the issue of assessment, starting with vo-tech.

Chuck Taylor stated that, in the vo-tech system, assessment happens after enrollment, where denial may still place surrounding placement in a concentration.

Representative Kim Williams said that this occurs after a student is asked to list multiple options when choosing a concentration with the understanding that the first choice may not be available. However, the student is still enrolled in the school.

Chuck Taylor followed up by stating the process does not offer equal opportunity.

Julie Rumschlag asked what was considered an "assessment?"

Representative Kim Williams read the following from the “parking lot” document: interview, standardized test scores, project/homework samples, writing samples, art portfolios, student essay written during assessment time, audition, test, current math and science course enrollment.

The voting language agreed upon by the task force membership is as follows: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to vo-tech/magnet/charter schools?”

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to vo-tech schools?” 5 members voted yes and 14 voted no with 1 member not voting.

A vote was taken to divide the recommendations for magnet and carter schools into grade levels: elementary, middle, and high school. 13 members voted yes, 7 voted no with 1 not voting.

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to magnet elementary schools?” 0 members voted yes, 20 voted no with 1 not voting.

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to magnet middle schools?” 7 members voted yes, 14 voted no with 1 not voting.

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to magnet high schools?” 10 members voted yes, 10 voted no with 2 not voting.

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to charter elementary schools?” 0 members voted yes, 21 voted no with 1 not voting.

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to charter middle schools?” 7 members voted yes, 14 voted no with 1 not voting.

A motion was made to vote on the following recommendation: “Do you agree with the use of assessments as part of the decision-making process for admission to charter high schools?” 9 members voted yes, 11 voted no with 1 not voting.

Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

***\*Note: Digital copies of all the document pertaining to the task force can be found on <http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/TaskForces.nsf/113411bdd5de74d385257b3b005e343c/49b267f532b422d185257b6c0061a658?OpenDocument>***

#### **4. Public Comment- The views and opinions expressed in this section are those of the individual speakers.**

Mike Matthews discussed the ACLU complaint and the problem of segregation that is facing Delaware’s public schools.

Kevin Ohlandt spoke about the segregation facing Wilmington’s public schools, and the children suffer the consequences.

Bill Doolittle discussed the practice of assessment and how it can sometimes lead to discrimination.

Eve Buckley believes the state needs to focus on equal opportunity for all children.

Greg Meece spoke about Newark Charter School and how the geographical preference has aided in parental and community involvement in the school.

## **5. Next Steps**

Next meeting: To be determined

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.